

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 00638 141310Z

73

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
----- 050710

R 141238Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9552
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 0638

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ET, SU
SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH PLF LEADER: "KHARTOUM COMMENTS"

REF: MOGADISCIO 357; ADDIS 3006

1. PLF LEADER SABBE'S OPINION THAT GOS CAN EFFEC-
TIVELY PRESSURE PMAC TO NEGOTIATE WITH ERITREANS DOES NOT
APPEAR TO BE SHARED BY SUDANESE. TOP FONMINISTRY OFFICIALS
HERE HAVE IN RECENT WEEKS COMMENTED RUEFULLY TO AMBASSADOR
RE ETHIOPIAN DELAY IN PURSUING NIMEIRI'S INITIATIVE. AFTER
INITIAL PUBLICITY RE LATTER, GOS NOW APPEARS TO HAVE RETREATED
BEHIND SCREEN OF SECRECY TO AVOID ANY EMBARRASSMENT TO
PMAC WHOSE DELEGATION, IF HERE (ADDIS 2907), HAS BEEN GIVEN
NO PUBLICITY NOR PRIVATE OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT. SUDANESE
HOPE EXERCISE SOME INFLUENCE ONCE NEGOTIATING
PROCESS STARTS (KHARTOUM 600 NOTAL), BUT UNTIL THEN
WILL BE IN DELICATE SITUATION BUE DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES
OF ARABS AND AFRICANS ON ERITREAN PROBLEM. WHILE GOS
WOULD DEARLY LOVE SEE ISSUE RESOLVED, SUDANESE
CLEARLY DO NOT WANT TO FRIGHTEN OFF EITHER SIDE IN
ADVANCE.

2. COMMENT IN ADDIS REFTTEL RE "DOMESTIC SUDANESE
POLITICAL LIMITATIONS" NOT COMPLETELY CLEAR TO US.
1972 ADDIS ACCORD ESTABLISHING AUTONOMOUS SOUTHERN

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PAGE 02 KHARTO 00638 141310Z

REGION HAS RECEIVED BROAD SUPPORT HERE. ANY GOS

MOVES FOSTER SIMILAR SETTLEMENT NEXT DOOR WOULD
NO DOUBT BE DOMESTICALLY POPULAR. MEANWHILE, GOS
IS SEEKING WIDEN ITS ROOM FOR MANEUVER BY QUIETLY
SPREADING WORD AMONG ARAB STATES THAT UNCRITICAL ARAB
SUPPORT FOR ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE HARDLY SERVES
ARABCAUSE IN AFRICA (KHARTOUM 600).
BREWER

SECRET

NNN

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